

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-21, 23-38, 40-55, 57-65, 67-75, and 77-83 are now pending in the application. Claims 4, 22, 39, 56, 66, and 76 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 14, 19-21, 23-26, 31, 32, 37, 38, 40-42, 49, 54, 55, 57-59, 63-65, 67-71, 73-75, and 77-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin (U.S. Pat. No. 5,768,531). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Lin fails to show, teach, or suggest that a first node of said plurality of nodes receives said table and determines a hidden status of a second node in said table **and said first node generates a backoff number**.

For anticipation to be present under 35 U.S.C §102(b), there must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure as viewed by one skilled in the field of the invention. Scripps Clinic & Res. Found. V. Genentech, Inc., 18 USPQ.2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 1991). All of the limitations of the claim must be inherent or expressly disclosed and must be arranged as in the claim. Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc., 7 USPQ.2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Here, Lin fails to disclose the limitation that said first node generates a backoff number.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as well as its dependent claims, should be allowable for at least the above reasons. Claims 19, 37, 54, 64, and 74, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should be allowable for at least similar reasons.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 4, 12, 13, 15-18, 22, 30, 33-36, 39, 47, 48, 50-53, 56, 60-62, 66, 70-72, 76, and 80-82 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 12, 16, 30, 34, 47, 51, 60, 70 and 80 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 12, 16, 30, 34, 47, 51, 60, 70 and 80, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

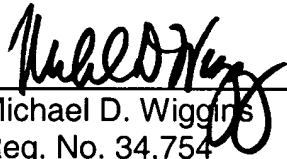
Applicants amended claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Similarly, Applicants amended claims 19, 37, 54, 64, and 74 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 22, 39, 56, 66, and 76, respectively. As such, claims 1, 19, 37, 54, 64, and 74, as well as their corresponding dependent claims, should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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